

## Office of Naval Research International Field Office

### Trip Report No. VI

### Visit to Seoul, Korea for Fifth IOC/WESTPAC International Scientific Symposium

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*These reports summarize global activities of S&T Associate Directors of the Office of Naval Research International Field Offices (ONRIFO). The complete listing of newsletters and reports are available under the authors' by-line on the ONRIFO homepage: <http://www.ehis.navy.mil/http://www.ehis.navy.mil/onrnews.htm> or ONRIFO-Asia homepage: <http://www.onr.navy.mil/onrasia/>, or by email to respective authors.*

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**Key Words:** *Fifth IOC/WESTPAC International Science Symposium; NEARGOOS; SEAGOOS, VSP; CSP*

#### 1. Summary

Attendance at the Fifth IOC/WESTPAC Symposium, held at the Convention Center of Seoul National University's Hoam Faculty House, afforded an opportunity to learn the status of research in: Ocean Dynamics and Climate; Marine Pollution and Monitoring; Marine Ecosystems Dynamics; Marine Geology and Sediment Dynamics; Harmful Algal Blooms; and Atmospheric Inputs to the Marine Environment.

The symposium consisted of invited and voluntary papers and poster sessions. In addition, there were two separate workshops on regional components of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS). These workshop sessions focused on Northeast Asia Regional GOOS (NEARGOOS) and Southeast Asia GOOS (SEAGOOS). Information from these workshops helped to identify the interaction between the researchers in the various countries, the kinds of data that were available, the future direction of research as well as the perceived needs to improve the management, sustainable development and protection of the marine environment.

There was ample opportunity to become acquainted with the attendees and to promote opportunities for cooperation/collaboration both with U.S. academic institutions and DON groups like ONR and NRL.

Several individuals inquired about VSPs and CSPs. A common problem was accessing the web site for program information and the application forms.

Invitations were extended to the ONRIFO OAS Liaison Scientist for visits to various facilities in Australia, China, Japan, Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam.

## **2. Background**

Asia-Pacific representatives in attendance were from: Australia; China; Indonesia; Japan; Malaysia; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russia; Singapore; Thailand; and Vietnam. Other attendees were from: Canada; Norway; United States and United Kingdom. There was ample opportunity to become acquainted with the crème of the oceanographic community performing research in the Asia-Pacific theatre.

This is the fifth in a series of meetings sponsored by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific. The IOC was established in 1960 under the auspices of UNESCO for “the purpose of promoting international cooperation and coordinating programs in research, services, and capacity-building, in order to learn more about the nature and resources of the ocean and coastal areas and to apply that knowledge for the improvement of management, sustainable development and the protections of the marine environment.”

## **3. Highlights of discussion**

The OAS liaison scientist from London’s ONRIFO Office, Dr. Reginald Beech, was in attendance and this afforded an opportunity for in-depth discussions on specific ONR sponsored projects, matters to be discussed at the upcoming “All Hands” meeting and the intricacies of ONR’s VSP, CSP and NICOP offerings. Furthermore, he was able to introduce me to several of the attendees. Contacts made with various IOC representatives as well as with scientists both familiar and unfamiliar with ONRIFO Tokyo should prove useful in future OAS related projects.

The Tokyo ONRIFO office made it possible for three Vietnamese scientists to attend this symposium through VSPs. I expect to receive their trip reports shortly. Each individually expressed their appreciation and reiterated their desire to have a return visit from the Tokyo office

A representative of the Pan Ocean Remote Sensing Conference Committee approached ONRIFO re funding for the PORSEC 2002 meeting in Bali, Indonesia. This meeting is scheduled for September 3 – 6, 2002. The conference secretary will submit a formal request in the near future.

#### **4. Assessment**

Attendance at this symposium, by many of the important ocean scientists from the region, provided a forum for the ONRIFO OAS liaison scientist to: (1) make initial contacts; (2) access the current status of research in the various fields; (3) identify the existing bi-lateral and multilateral agreements; (4) recognize future directions of research interest, especially for SEAGOOS, and (5) gain an appreciation for possible ways that ONRIFO can become more involved in regional projects of interest to ONR Program Officers.

#### **6. Contacts**

Access the following website for a list of symposium attendees as well as other pertinent information: <http://www.momaf.go.kr/koc/symposium/>. Or go to the IOC site at <http://ioc.unesco.org/westpac/>.

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